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OKLAHOMA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT 4.2 PERCENT IN MARCH 2006

- Oklahoma's **non-seasonally adjusted labor force, employment and unemployment** all grew over the month in March 2006. For the March-to-March period, **non-seasonally adjusted unemployment** dropped by more than 9,000 persons (-11.1 percent).
- This across-the-board growth forced a slight increase in Oklahoma's **non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate** for March, as it rose by 0.1 percent to 4.2 percent for the month.
- Over the month, **non-seasonally adjusted employment** grew by 5,827 persons, or 0.3 percent. This growth rate is slower than is typically seen for the February-to-March period. Because of this smaller **non-seasonally adjusted employment** gain, **seasonally adjusted employment** also receded slightly.

Month	Non-seasonally Adjusted				Seasonally Adjusted			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemp. Rate
Jan '06	1,738,918	1,661,983	76,935	4.4%	1,753,575	1,685,258	68,317	3.9%
Feb '06	1,739,826	1,668,661	71,165	4.1%	1,754,172	1,690,413	63,759	3.6%
Mar '06	1,747,693	1,674,488	73,205	4.2%	1,757,040	1,686,672	70,368	4.0%

March 2006		Non-seasonally Adjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
		Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment
		1,747,693	1,674,488	73,205	1,757,040	1,686,672	70,368
CHANGE	Monthly #	+7,867	+5,827	+2,040	+2,868	-3,741	+6,609
	Monthly %	+0.5%	+0.3%	+2.9%	+0.2%	-0.2%	+10.4%
	Annual #	+26,005	35,103	-9,098	+23,481	+30,864	-7,393
	Annual %	+1.5%	+3.1%	-11.1%	+1.4%	+1.9%	-9.5%
Participation rate*		64.1%	61.4%	--	64.4%	61.9%	--

* Participation rate represents the ratio of Labor Force or Employment compared to the general population of Oklahoma.